

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-33 are pending, of which claims 1-3, 7, 14, and 21 have been amended.

5       Applicant's amendments and remarks after Final are appropriate under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because they address the Office's remarks in the Final Action, and thus could not have been presented earlier. In addition, the amendments and remarks should be entered to place the case in better form for appeal.

10

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 2-3 and 7 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form (*Office Action* p.11). Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability.

15       Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable feature(s) of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 1 along with dependent claims 2-13 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2-3 and 7 be withdrawn.

20       In the Office Action dated November 5, 2004 (p.11), the Office indicated that claims 12 and 21 were also allowable if rewritten in independent form. Specifically, the allowable feature(s) is a module connector which includes a pin configuration that can be decoded by a mobile computing device to determine an input/output connector configuration on an interchangeable input/output module.

25       Claims 12 and 21 are now rejected by the Office under §103 over the single Kambayashi reference (*Office Action* p.9). However, the Office

provides no indication as to how Kambayashi is being relied upon to reject claims 12 and 21, and Applicant asserts that the Office has failed to provide a basis for the rejection of the feature(s) recited in claims 12 and 21.

In the Office Action p.9, ¶¶18, first bulleted point, the Office merely cites 5 to item 55 of Fig. 2a which is a module connector. In reference to the second bulleted point on p.10, the Office cites to the entire Kambayashi reference (i.e., the Abstract, Summary, and the complete Description). Still, there is no indication in Kambayashi, or from the Office, of a pin configuration that can be decoded by a mobile computing device to determine an input/output connector 10 configuration on an interchangeable input/output module, as recited in claims 12 and 21. Applicant asserts that the feature(s) of claims 12 and 21 are allowable and respectfully requests that the Office allow the claims.

In a previous Response dated December 28, 2004, Applicant submitted 15 claim amendments to incorporate the allowable feature(s) of claim 12, as indicated by the Office.

Independent claims 22 and 26 were amended to include the allowable 20 feature(s) of claim 12. Accordingly, claim 22 along with dependent claims 23-25 are in condition for allowance. Similarly, claim 26 along with dependent claims 27-29 are in condition for allowance.

New claim 30 was presented as a combination of claim 1 and allowable 25 claim 12. New claim 31 was also presented to include the allowable feature(s) of claim 12. Accordingly, new claims 30 and 31 are in condition for allowance.

New claim 32 was presented as a combination of claims 14, 19, and 30 allowable claim 21. New claim 33 was also presented to include the allowable

feature(s) of claim 21. Accordingly, new claims 32 and 33 are in condition for allowance.

In this Response, Independent claim 14 is amended to include the  
5 allowable feature(s) of claim 12. Accordingly, claim 14 along with dependent  
claims 15-21 are in condition for allowance. All pending claims 1-33 are now  
in condition for allowance.

**35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections**

10 Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for  
obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,805,412 to Yanagisawa et al. (hereinafter,  
“Yanagisawa”) (*Office Action* p.2). Applicant respectfully traverses the claim  
rejections.

15 Claims 1, 12, 14, and 21-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for  
obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,724,615 to Kambayashi et al. (hereinafter,  
“Kambayashi”) (*Office Action* p.8). Applicant respectfully traverses the claim  
rejections.

20 As described above in *Allowable Subject Matter*, independent claim 1 is  
amended to include the allowable feature(s) of claim 2. Accordingly claims  
1-13 are allowable over Yanagisawa and/or Kambayashi, and Applicant  
respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

25 Claim 12 recites that “a module connector includes a pin configuration  
that can be decoded by the mobile computing device to determine an  
input/output connector configuration on the input/output module.”

Kambayashi does not teach or suggest that a computing device can decode a module connector pin configuration to determine an input/output connector configuration on an input/output module, as recited in claim 12. The Office generally refers to all of Kambayashi for teaching this feature (*Office Action* pp.9-10). However, there is no indication in Kambayashi of determining an input/output connector configuration on an input/output module from a module connector pin configuration, as recited in claim 12.

Further, the Office has not provided any indication as to how Kambayashi is being relied upon to reject the feature(s) recited in claim 12.  
10 Accordingly, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn and claim 12 should be allowed.

Claim 21 recites that “the input/output connector configuration identifier is decoded from a pin configuration in the input/output module”.

15 As described above in the response to the rejection of claim 12, there is no indication in Kambayashi that an input/output connector configuration identifier is decoded from a pin configuration in the input/output module, as recited in claim 21. Further, the Office has not provided any indication as to how Kambayashi is being relied upon to reject the feature(s) recited in  
20 claim 21. Accordingly, the §103 rejection should be withdrawn and claim 21 should be allowed.

Independent Claims 14, 22, 26, and 30-33 each include the allowable feature(s) of claims 12 and/or 21 as described above in *Allowable Subject Matter*. Further, as described above in the response to the rejection of claims  
25 12 and 21, Kambayashi does not teach or suggest the feature(s) of either claim.

Accordingly, claims 14-21, 22-25, 26-29, and 30-33 are allowable over Kambayashi, and the §103 rejection should be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

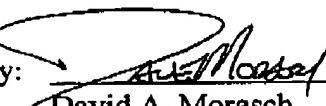
5 Pending claims 1-33 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

10

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: DEC 23, 2005

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David A. Morasch  
Lee & Hayes, PLLC  
Reg. No. 42,905  
(509) 324-9256 x 210

15

19

Docket No. 10006017-4